AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) Arrangement for division of animals into groups and transfer of groups of animals to a stunning apparatus (3), comprising an oblong corridor section (10) in which animals can be driven from an entrance end to an exit end, which gate is placed in such a way that the corridor area (10b) between the division gate and the exit end has room for a number of animals corresponding to the group size, and a transfer section (16) provided in continuation of the corridor section (10) at the exit end of the section which transfer section has room for a number of animals corresponding to the group size, and which section has a connection with the entrance to the stunning apparatus.

2. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the transfer section (16) is placed directly between the exit end of the corridor section and the entrance to the stunning apparatus.

3. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the transfer section (16) has a rectangular shape with a short side placed opposite the exit end of the corridor section (10) and a long side placed opposite the entrance to the stunning apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 3, wherein the transfer section (16) has a movable wall (18) at the other long side, which wall can be moved over to the long side opposite the entrance to the stunning apparatus.

5. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein an access gate (13) is placed at the entrance of the transfer section from the corridor section (10).

6. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising a gate device, placed at the corridor section (10), with a traveling sliding gate (14) or a traveling elevating gate which can be moved in the corridor area (10b) from the entrance end to the exit end and can return with the gate withdrawn from or elevated above the corridor section.

7. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 6, wherein an access gate (13) is placed at the entrance of the transfer section from the corridor section (10) and the traveling sliding/elevating gate can be moved from a position at the division gate (12) to a position at the access gate (13).

8. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 7, wherein the gate device has the traveling sliding gate and comprises a first transport mechanism to pull the traveling sliding gate (14) sideways out of the corridor section (10) and push it sideways into the corridor section through gaps in one side wall of the corridor at the access gate (13) and the division gate (12), respectively, and a second transport mechanism to move the traveling sliding gate (14) in a longitudinal direction of the corridor section from a starting position (14c) in front of the division gate (12) to an end position at the access gate (13), and to move the traveling sliding gate (14) back outside the corridor section, after it has been pulled sideways out of the corridor section (10), from a position (14a) which is opposite the end position at the access gate and to a second position (14b), which is opposite the starting position (14c) in front of the division gate (12).

9. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 8, wherein the first transport mechanism comprises a guide device, in which the traveling sliding gate (14) is displaceable mounted so that the gate, by means of a motor, can be displaced out of the corridor through a gap in one side wall of the corridor at the access gate (13), from a position in the corridor section to a position (14a) outside the section, and can be moved in the opposite direction into the corridor through a gap in the same side wall of the corridor at the division gate (12), and the second transport mechanism is connected with the guide device and the motor in such a way that it can transport these and the traveling sliding gate (14) in the longitudinal direction of the corridor section.

10. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the division gate (12) can be opened partially to a position, which allows animals to walk one by one through the passage formed in the corridor section (10) by the opening process, and the gate (12) can also be opened completely to form an opening of the same width as the corridor section, which opening allows several animals to be driven next to each other by means of a driving device.

11. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the corridor area (10a) of corridor section between the entrance end and the division gate (12) has room for a flock of animals of the size that is wanted to be divided into groups.

12. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising a driving gate (15), which can be moved in the longitudinal direction of the corridor section between a starting position at the entrance end of the corridor section and to a position at the division gate (12), such as a traveling sliding gate or a traveling elevating gate.

13. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising an entrance opening at the entrance end of the corridor section by one of the long side walls of the corridor section (10), which opening can be closed by means of a gate (11).

14. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising a stunning apparatus.

15. (Previously Presented) Method for division of animals into groups and transfer of groups of animals to a stunning apparatus (3),

a) driving animals in an oblong corridor section (10) from an entrance end towards an exit end and past an open division gate (12), which is placed between the entrance end and the exit end, the division gate being placed in such a way that the corridor area (10b) between the division gate (12) and the exit end has room for a number of animals corresponding to the group size,

b) closing the division gate (12) when a number of animals corresponding to the group size have passed,

c) driving the group of animals into a transfer section (16), placed in continuation of the corridor section (10) at the exit end of the section when the transfer section (16) is ready to receive a group of animals, which transfer section has room for a number of animals corresponding to the group size and has connection with the entrance to the stunning apparatus,

d) closing the access from the corridor section (10) to the transfer section (16) ,

e) driving the group of animals in the transfer section (16) into the stunning apparatus (3) when this is ready to receive a group of animals, and

f) repeating the process steps a) to e) as long as there are animals in the corridor area (10a) between the entrance end and the division gate (12), the division gate (12) being opened between each cycle.

16. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 15, and wherein the transfer section (16) has a rectangular shape with a short side placed opposite the exit end of the corridor section (10) and a long side placed opposite the entrance to the stunning apparatus, and further comprising moving a movable wall (18) at the other long side over to the long side placed opposite the entrance to the stunning apparatus in connection with process step e).

17. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 15, further comprising driving animals in the corridor area (10b) between the division gate and the exit end by means of a gate device with a traveling elevating or traveling sliding gate and returning the elevating/sliding gate with the gate pulled out of or elevated above the corridor section.

18. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 15, further comprising partially opening the division gate (12) to a position which allow animals to walk one by one through the passage formed by the opening process when the number of animals on the corridor area (10a) between the entrance end and the division gate exceeds the number of animals in a group.

19. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 15, further comprising partially opening the division gate (12) to a position which allows animals to walk one by one through the passage formed by the opening process when the number of animals on the corridor area (10a) between the entrance end and the division gate exceeds the number of animals in a group.

20. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 15, further comprising driving animals on the corridor area (10a) between the entrance end and the division gate forwards by means of a traveling elevating or traveling sliding gate.